

to educate their children, provide health care, and be able to provide an opportunity for their futures.

We have many people within our State that have to go elsewhere because they cannot find the economic opportunities in our State. But this continual haranguing as it deals with this partisan fundraising as far as the political activities that are going on is derailing us from what our most important mission ought to be, which is to balance the Federal budget, to secure it for future generations, not just our generation, but our grandchildren's generation and thereafter.

But the continual sniping and partisanship that has been displayed by the House chairman of the committee doing the investigation is doing a disservice to all Americans who are trying to provide for their families.

I would encourage Members on the other side of the aisle, as we try to seek a balanced budget and try to do it in a bipartisan fashion, that these kinds of outrages and outbursts do not serve anybody's interest, especially the public's interest. And when I go home every weekend, the people in Maine are not asking me about the political fundraising that is going on at the White House or in Washington, they are asking me what am I doing to make college more easily accessible to them and their families so that they do not have to go to the poor farm.

In our State it has gone from 75 percent of the loan being a grant to 75 percent of the loan being a loan, so they get indebted and they do not go on to college.

□ 1300

We have got a lot of young people who cannot endure those expenses. We have got working families that are trying to make do on the minimum wage, but they cannot provide health care for their families. Those are the issues that are important to Americans. Those are the issues that are important to Maine people and those are the issues that we as Members of Congress that were elected to serve our people and be a voice for our people ought to be addressing.

I would encourage Members on the other side of the aisle and those that are interested in a bipartisan fashion to stop all this political partisan sniping and to focus on these issues so that we can really tell the people of America and Maine some of the more important things that are going on and what we are working on and that we truly are putting their interest, the public interest, before the Democratic or the Republican interest, the public interest, because that ultimately is the oath of office that we are sworn to.

These continuing partisan snipes and outbursts serve nobody's purpose. All they do is further polarize parties so it makes it that much harder to get together. In order for us to work with a Democratic President and a Republican Congress, we are going to need to reach

across the aisle. So these continuing outbursts and investigations and partisan sniping is not going to serve anybody's interest. They may help partisan political interests, but that really is not the interests for which we are here and elected to serve.

So while our time is here, we have to remember that famous quote, that we are not extraordinary people doing ordinary things. We are ordinary people trying to do extraordinary things. In order to do it, we have to continue to remember that it is being done for the public interest, not for the Democratic interest, not for the Republican interest, but the public interest.

I would encourage and implore my colleagues on the Republican side to work together with me to balance the budget and put the interests of the people first, not the interests of their party.

ON THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURTON of Indiana). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BLILEY] is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from Maine who preceded me in the well that I appreciate his remarks. It is time that we get moving on the budget and that we reach agreement.

But I would suggest firmly that he address his comments to his leadership in both bodies who have criticized the President recently for his willingness to work with the Republicans and to reach compromise. I think that would be more productive.

TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON TO NATIONAL GAMBLING IMPACT STUDY COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today we just heard that the President made his appointments to the National Gambling Impact Study Commission. I would like to make a comment about it.

Today's appointments to the National Gambling Impact Study Commission by President Clinton, in my opinion, tilt the balance of the commission in favor of the gambling industry. The purpose of the commission is to conduct a study of gambling and provide America's communities with objective information so that they may make their own decisions about gambling.

The President personally told me that he supported the commission and appreciated its goals. In a letter to Senator Simon, the President wrote, and I quote, Senator Simon, former

Senator from the State of Illinois who retired last year, he said:

I deeply appreciate your efforts to draw attention to the growth of the gambling industry and its consequences. I have long shared your view about the need to consider carefully all of the effects of gambling, and I support the establishment of a commission for this purpose.

But that was before the casinos and the gambling interests began contributing to last year's elections. Today's appointments reaffirm how America feels about this administration. It appears to be for sale to the highest bidder and in cases like this is fundamentally corrupt.

The President of the United States today failed the American people. Today the President ignored all the problems related to gambling such as crime and corruption and cannibalization of business and the breakup of so many families.

The President turned his back on all those desperate Americans addicted to gambling who cheat, steal, or lie to fuel their habit. The President today willfully overlooked the suicides and the family dissolution that comes with gambling.

This is a sad day, I think, for America because the President's actions confirm the worst fears in that this administration has made a bad appointment and has, I think, poorly served the American people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLILEY). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SNOWBARGER] at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are grateful, O God, for all of those people whose attitude toward their lives and the lives of others, and indeed to Your whole creation, is an inspiration to us and to all who meet them or know them. We are grateful that Your gifts of faith and hope and love inspire people not only to talk about the opportunities and responsibilities of daily living, but whose lives are full of doing those good works and deeds that benefit people and strengthen our society. Bless them, O God, and bless all people whose constructive spirit helps them and us better understand and appreciate the hopes and the fears of each day. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.